

3 a bonding agent that is introduced through said hole and attaches said blade holder to said blade. spec. p. 17

24. (Twice Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:  
32 a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,  
a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin and bonding access means; and,  
bonding means for bonding said blade holder to said blade and which is introduced through said bonding access means.

45. (Twice Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:  
33 a blade holder having a front surface and a recess that receives the pin; and  
a blade attached to said blade holder, said blade having a pair of side edges, a cutting edge, a rear edge and a notch that extends through a thickness of said blade and is located between said cutting edge and said front surface along one of said side edges.

#### REMARKS

34 The Examiner rejected claims 21, 23, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellenkamp in view of Dybbs. Claims 21 and 24 recite a bonding agent that is introduced through a hole in the blade holder. The hole allows the blade assembly to be calibrated before the actual bonding process of the blade holder to the blade. Neither Hellenkamp or Dybbs disclose or suggest to provide a hole in the blade holder to provide